

# Teaching of Eng.

Circular Letter #199

May 24, 1905.

To the American Teachers:--

By reason of a Law recently passed by the Insular Legislature, some changes must be introduced the coming year in both the form and manner of conducting English classes for Porto Rican teachers. This Department, realizing your familiarity with local conditions in the different towns where you have been stationed and appreciating especially your acquaintance with the more successful features of the English work, as well as the difficulties which have heretofore been encountered, desires at this time your assistance in formulating the courses which must be arranged for succeeding years to meet the requirements of Section 10 of the Amended School Laws, which is as follows:

(Section 10. - 1) Examinations in English for teachers shall be held annually, the date to be designated by the Commissioner of Education.

(2) Said examinations shall be progressive for a term of years, and for every year there shall be assigned a certain amount of knowledge in accordance with the method to be followed for the study of the language.

(3) The Department shall prepare a course of study for each and every such course, wherein shall appear in

full the subjects that are to be included in such examinations for all teachers. Teachers of English assigned to give instruction to other teachers shall conform strictly to the course of study prepared by the Department.

(4) Any teachers who have not successfully passed any examination of English held at any one year shall be allowed a term of three months to try examination again at which such teachers shall necessarily be successful, otherwise the Department of Education may suspend them from duty, until the examination has been passed. If the suspension should exceed two years the teachers' license or diploma may be cancelled.

In part 2, where it states that the examinations shall be progressive for a term of years, the Department is of the opinion that three distinct courses of study might be prepared for as many groups of teachers, each Course being complete in itself but so arranged as to follow naturally the Course immediately preceding, both in point of subject matter treated as well as method employed. The teachers of one group having successfully completed the work assigned for the group in question could then be promoted to the next higher; for instance, three Courses (A, B and C) having been prepared, teachers completing the less advanced Course (C) would the year following take up work in Group B, and the third year in Group A. By this arrangement the entire work, as thus outlined, would

be completed in three years, at the termination of which it would be necessary to prepare additional or new Courses. Your advice, however, is desired upon this matter, and you will please express your approval of or objection to Courses thus arranged.

Your advice and suggestions, nevertheless, are not only desired with regard to the time during which the Courses should extend but also as to textbooks and manuals, devices and methods capable of being employed in the furtherance of oral instruction in English and, in short, suggestions of whatever description relevant to the subject in hand. Such suggestions as you may care to submit will be gladly welcomed by the Department and should be sent to the Department through your Local Superintendent.

The Courses which have been pursued by the Porto Rican teachers during the past three years, as well as the results obtained, give us just cause for satisfaction as we view the increased familiarity with and use of the English language thus far acquired by our teaching body, and it is our wish that equal or greater advance be made in this branch hereafter. To do this the co-operation and assistance of all the American teachers are especially desired, and to this end it is requested that all suggestions which can be of service or value in the preparation of these new Courses of English be admitted before the close of the

present school year.

Respectfully,

Commissioner of Education,

LRS/HEH/735